



# THE LAST DAYS OF JESUS

## A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 5-7 PM**

Welcome to our guided worship experience as we journey from the Last Supper to the tomb. We hope this evening will give you space to reflect on the last days of Jesus in a unique and meaningful way.

---

### **JUST A COUPLE REMINDERS**

---

**Please silence notifications on your phone or devices.** This is meant to be an immersive experience with no distractions.

**Take your time.** There's no need to rush. You can spend as much or as little time as you need at each of the stops.

**If you feel uncomfortable participating in an activity, feel free to pause, watch, reflect, or move on to the next stop.** Chairs are available if you need to be seated or would like to spend extra time in prayer or reflection.



## THE MEAL

**READ:** *On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"*

*He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. (Matthew 26:17-19)*

**ACTION:** **Jesus and his disciples likely celebrated a Passover meal, but they did not eat a formal "Seder" as understood today. The Passover meal may have consisted of bread, wine, lamb and bitter herbs. As you taste the bitter herbs, think of the disciples gathered for this last meal.**



## THE FOOT WASHING

**READ:** *The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*

*Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*

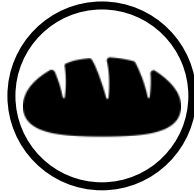
*"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."*

*Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."*

*"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"*

*Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:2-17)*

**ACTION:** *Feel the water and imagine Jesus washing your feet and the feet of Simon Peter. How do you think Peter felt, having the one they call King serve him in this vulnerable way?*



## THE BREAD

**READ:** *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."*

*Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:26-27)*

**ACTION:** **While you receive Holy Communion, take time to think about what it would have been like to receive the first communion. Give thanks as Jesus did when he shared the bread and wine.**



## THE PRAYER

**READ:** *Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (Luke 22:39-46)*

*Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!” (Matthew 26:45-46)*

**ACTION:** **Jesus knew all the pain and suffering he was about to experience. Can you sense his anguish? Do you feel his struggle? Yet he still says, “not my will, but yours be done.” Jesus’ sacrifice wasn’t something that happened in the spur of the moment. He deliberately chose to take the journey to the cross – despite the great cost. Take time to pray at your seat or at the rail, center yourself and prepare for the journey ahead.**



## THE BETRAYAL

**READ:** *The one called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So, they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. (Matthew 26:14-16)*

*While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. (Matthew 26:47-50)*

**ACTION:** **Open the bag and feel the coins in your hand as you contemplate the decision Judas made. Are you sure you wouldn't have done the same?**



## THE TRIAL

**READ:** *They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.*

*Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"*

*"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

*The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"*

*They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him. (Mark 14:53,55, 61-65)*

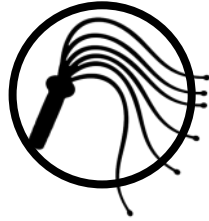
**ACTION:** **Take a piece of cloth and tear it, as you think about the moment the high priest tore Jesus' clothes. They all condemned Jesus, but he knew the truth of who he was.**



## **THE BURDEN**

**READ:** *As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.” (Luke 23:26)*

**ACTION:** **Lift the cross and imagine Simon of Cyrene sharing that burden with Jesus. Have you ever seen someone who was carrying a heavy burden? Did you step up to help?**



## THE MOCKING

**READ:** *But he (Pilate) had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified. (Matthew 27:26)*

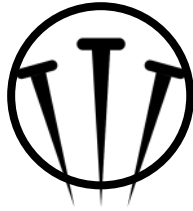
*Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. (Matthew 27:27-31a)*

**ACTION:** As you look and touch some of the items used to hurt and tear Jesus apart think about this:

**Some deaths are quick. Some deaths are noble. This death was neither. It's one thing to kill a man. It's another to shame and humiliate him.**

**Think for a second... That the King of heaven has spit on his face.**

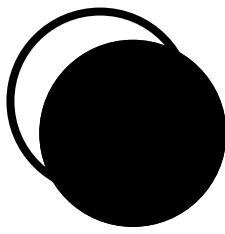
**O the divine disgrace of our Savior.**



## THE NAILING

**READ:** *When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”* (Luke 23:33-34)

**ACTION:** Jesus talked a lot about loving enemies and forgiving others. But here at the cross he goes beyond words and ideals and teaches us by example. With the nail digging into his flesh and the hammer hovering, he offers forgiveness. Pick up a nail and think about the strength of our Lord and the depth of his love for us as you pound the nail into the wood.



## THE TOMB

**READ:** *Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.*

*Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. (John 19:38-41)*

**ACTION:** **Smell the incense that was used to prepare Jesus' body. As you pause, imagine the emotion of the disciples as Jesus' body was laid in the tomb. His death was the death of all they hoped and believed in. Have you experienced a loss like this? The disciples didn't know at the time that Sunday was coming. Let yourself feel the loss they felt as you prepare to exit this experience.**



# **EASTER SUNDAY**

Join us for an Easter  
Celebration this Sunday

**9 AM: CHOIR**

**11 AM: BAND**

[stpaulumc.org](http://stpaulumc.org)